

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSC-05 /051 W

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R 222055Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 562

INFO AMCONSUL HALIFAX

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 2996

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CA

SUBJ: FLEMMING TO REPLACE KIRBY IN PMO

REF: OTTAWA 2629

1. MICHAEL KIRBY HAS INFORMED POLCOUNS THAT HIS SOLE NOMINEE TO REPLACE HIM AS PM TRUDEAU'S DOMESTIC POLITICAL ADVISER IS HALIFAX LAWYER BRIAN FLEMMING. KIRBY EXPECTS THE FLEMMING NOMINATION TO BE CONFIRMED BY TRUDEAU MONETARILY.

2. KIRBY INDICATES THAT JOB OF ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL SECRETARY (PLANS AND POLICY) WILL BE TAILED TO MORE MANAGEABLE PORTIONS, WITH KIRBY'S SPEECH-WRITING RESPONSIBILITIES GOING TO COMMUNICATIONS ADVISER RICHARD O'HAGAN AND SOME OF KIRBY'S FUNCTIONAL POLITICAL RESPONSIBILITIES BEING FARMED OUT ELSEWHERE (E.G. BILINGUALISM TO SPECIAL POLICY ADVISOR PIERRE JUNEAU). KIRBY DENIED THAT HE HAD SELECTED FLEMMING IN ORDER TO PERPETUATE MARITIME MAFIA IN PMO. WHILE HE FELT REGIONAL SPREAD WAS USEFUL, HE ALSO FELT QUITE HONESTLY THAT FLEMMING WAS THE BEST MAN HE COULD THINK OF FOR THE JOB.

3. COMMENT: FROM POINT OF VIEW OF EMBASSY'S ACCESS TO PMO, FLEMMING IS CHOICE WE COULD HARDLY IMPROVE ON SINCE WE HAVE BEEN CULTIVATING HIM FOR OVER A YEAR AS A CONTACT WITH BRIGHT FUTURE PROSPECTS (C.F. LATEST PLBRL). A SUCCESSFUL HALIFAX LAWYER, LOS EXPERT,

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UNIVERSITY (AND U.S. NAVAL WAR COLLEGE) LECTURER, MEMBER

OF PRESTIGIOUS CULTURE-SUBSIDIZING CANADA COUNCIL,
MEMBER OF TRI-CONTINENTAL COMMISSION, FLEMMING HAS A
GOOD DEAL TO BE PRETENTIOUS ABOUT, AND IS TO SOME
EXTENT. HOWEVER, HE IS BRIGHT, YOUNG (EST. MID-THIRTIES)
AND HAS DISPLAYED A DEGREE OF CANDOR IN CONTACTS WITH
EMBOFFS WHICH RIVALS THAT OF KIRBY. WHILE HIS GOVERN-
MENT EXPERIENCE HAS TO DATE BEEN ON THE FRINGES,
LEAVING HIM WITH MUCH TO LEARN ABOUT THE BUREAUCRACY,
HE WILL NOT HAVE MUCH HOMEWORK TO DO ON HOW TO SUCCEED
IN POLITICS: HE RAN AGAINST THEN-PC NATIONAL LEADER
ROBERT STANFIELD IN THE HALIFAX RIDING IN 1974 AND GAVE
STANFIELD A SCARE, REDUCING HIS PREVIOUS 8,000-VOTE
VICTORY MARGIN TO 2,500.
ENDERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NOMINATION, CONSULTANTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976OTTAWA02996
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760283-0525
From: OTTAWA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760732/aaaabbyc.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 OTTAWA 2629
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 APR 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <03 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FLEMMING TO REPLACE KIRBY IN PMO
TAGS: PINT, CA, (KIRBY, MICHAEL), (FLEMMING, BRIAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006